

Irvin Dyer's actions in Romania serve not only the people of Romania, but the whole world. The goodwill he spreads reflects well on Americans and our belief in caring for those less fortunate, protecting the future for our children and making the world a better place for all people.

We should all be grateful for the wonderful example of Mr. Dyer, and like him, reach out to help the millions of people suffering the ravages of addiction.

#### HONORING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND

##### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wonderful organization in my State of Florida, the Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB).

FAASB has an honorable mission to serve as a united voice and be the organizational support empowering private agencies serving Floridians with blindness and visual impairment to provide state of the art professional vision rehabilitation services which enhance the quality of individual and community life.

I would like to praise FAASB for its successful initiative to create the first-ever state license plate benefiting the blind. Additionally, I must commend them for creating a vision caucus in the Florida State Legislature, similar to the Congressional Vision Caucus, which I co-chair. This State Vision Caucus will educate members of the State Legislature so they comprehend the scope of eye problems in our country and will ensure adequate resources are directed towards the research, prevention and treatment of eye disease.

FAASB has also created an annual Florida Vision Summit, where they look to create a statewide vision strategy to raise awareness about the increasing number of Americans with vision loss and provide better understanding of the importance of necessary steps to preserve and protect eyesight.

Once again, I would like to thank FAASB for their continued commitment to prevention, better eye care, and services to those who already live with low vision and blindness. I congratulate them on their achievement and service to the community.

#### HUNTING IN THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

##### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia was designated as a unit of the National Park System in 1978. At times referred to as the 'Grand Canyon of the East' we in West Virginia refer to the Grand Canyon as the 'New River Gorge of the West.' The national river is comprised of over 70,000 acres of mostly rugged terrain and is renowned as a

destination for its world-class whitewater recreation, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. But it is also a place where generations of West Virginians have hunted and fished. Unfortunately, the ability to hunt in the gorge is now being drawn into question.

As the Congressman from New River County, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

I view it as a God given right for West Virginians to hunt in the New River Gorge. This area is not immune from activities such as housing developments that are placing a premium on lands where hunting by the general public may take place.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service, as part of the development of a new general management plan for the park unit, has included a no hunting alternative. It is doing so because the legislation which established the New River Gorge National River states that hunting "may" be permitted. The enabling statute for the nearby Gauley River National Recreation Area, on the other hand, states that hunting "shall" be allowed. In fact, this is the case for the vast majority of the 62 units of the National Park System in which hunting is permitted.

The bill I am introducing today simply changes the "may" to a "shall" in the law which established the New River Gorge National River. While there is no doubt in my mind that the current Superintendent of this park unit will do the right thing and allow hunting to continue in the final general management plan, this is too important of an issue to remain at the discretion of future managers of the park unit.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES

##### HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Metropolitan Family Services on its 150 years of service to individuals and families of the Chicago metropolitan area.

Metropolitan Family Services, MFS, was launched on February 15, 1857, as the Chicago Relief and Aid Society, renamed as United Charities in 1909, and then renamed again in 1995 as Metropolitan Family Services.

MFS was assigned by Chicago Mayor R. B. Mason to help citizens recover after the Chicago Fire. It assisted more than 18,000 families, constructing more than 7,000 temporary homes and administering more than \$10 million, in 1871 dollars in aid donated around the world.

MFS was one of the Nation's first organizations to provide free legal services for the poor through the Legal Aid Society.

A leader in meeting the needs of thousands of people through the Great Depression, World War II, and postwar years, MFS provided a range of services including mental health counseling, elder care, and early childhood education.

MFS successfully advocated for State legislation enacted in 2005 that protected poor and

lower-income families from predatory lending practices.

Presently, Metropolitan Family Services employs 559 professionals serving close to 55,000 families and individuals. It has seven community centers that provide a full range of services, including child and youth development, mental health services, child welfare, employee assistance programs, legal aid, services for older adults and their families, social policy and community development, and violence prevention and intervention.

I congratulate MFS on its success in providing and mobilizing the services needed to strengthen Chicago area families and communities.

#### CONGRATULATING KIRSTEN AMBORS

##### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kirsten Ambors of Parker, Colorado. Ms. Ambors is a mathematics student at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Ambors and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPON ITS 10TH YEAR

##### HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth year of a unique program in the annals of our Nation's proud military heritage. On January 28, 1999, the Honorable Mahlon Apgar, IV, then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment, first presented the Residential Communities Initiative, known as RCI, in a briefing to the Urban Land Institute. Few in that distinguished audience of real estate developers, financiers and public officials appreciated the far-reaching impact that RCI would have on the Army, on industry, and, most importantly, on improving the quality of life for thousands of military families.

At that time, the Army faced a monumental challenge in its Government-owned housing and infrastructure. Seventy-five percent of the family housing on Army posts was substandard, and the poor conditions were hurting